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ABSTRACT

This memorandum of agreement for an academic common market is drawn up under the general framework of operation of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). The agreement is designed to establish an academic common market for sharing specified academic programs through an exchange of students across state borders. The Common Market will assist in eliminating unnecessary duplication and increasing availability and access to programs necessary in meeting the educational needs of citizens in the region. Authority for the agreement, provisions, procedures, magnitude (presently limited to the graduate level), duration, and ratification are discussed. (MJM)

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MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR AN ACADEMIC COMMON MARKET

We, the undersigned, are concerned that the public colleges and universities, committed to meeting the needs of our citizens for training beyond high school, are often required to establish new academic programs despite the existence of the needed programs in institutions in other Southern states. We recognize that it is impractical for an institution or a state to develop programs in every field of knowledge, that many existing programs have the capacity to serve additional students, and that out-of-state tuition often discourages movement of students across state lines for programs not available in their home state.

Having authority to enter into an agreement of this nature for the states and institutions indicated below, the undersigned agree to establish an academic Common Market for sharing specified academic programs through an exchange of students across state borders. The Common Market will assist in eliminating unnecessary duplication and increasing availability and access to programs necessary in meeting the educational needs of citizens in the region.

I. AUTHORITY FOR THE AGREEMENT

This memorandum is drawn up under the general framework of operation of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). The SREB, comprising the governor and certain other representatives of fourteen Southern states[1] with staff offices permanently located in Atlanta, Georgia, is

> devoted to the task of assisting states and institutions and agencies concerned with higher education in their efforts to advance knowledge and to improve the social and economic level of the Southern region.

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[1]The fourteen states which are party to the Southern Regional Education Compact are: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

> In aiding such states, institutions and agencies, the Board shall explore fully, recommend, where desirable, and develop where needed, interstate collaboration in the support, expansion, or establishment of regional services or schools for graduate, professional and technical education.
>
> The Board, in carrying out its general purposes, shall ... serve as an administrative device for carrying out interstate arrangements for regional educational services and institutions.[2]

II. PROVISIONS

In recognition of the above, the undersigned agree:

STATE:

1. To designate an administrator responsible for coordination of the Common Market in the state.
2. To transmit to SREB annually a list of programs institutions in the state are willing to include in the Common Market.
3. To indicate from the programs offered through the Common Market by institutions in other states those not offered in the state and, thus, to be made available to residents of the state.
4. To certify residents of the state for participation in the Common Market.
5. To supply data to SREB on operation of the Common Market, e.g. the number of students from other states in Common Market programs offered by institutions in the state.
6. To describe the Common Market in appropriate state publications.

INSTITUTION (or STATE if signatory for STATE has authority to commit institutions to the following provisions):

1. To transmit annually to the administrator responsible for coordinating the Common Market in the state a list of programs to be available through the Common Market to residents in states not offering the programs.

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[2]From Article I, By-Laws, Southern Regional Education Board.

2. To admit qualified students from participating states applying for Common Market programs, as can be accommodated, and grant them a waiver of out-of-state tuition.
3. To allow enrolled students a reasonable period of time to complete a program at in-state tuition if the program is removed from the Common Market.
4. To describe the Common Market in appropriate institutional publications.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL EDUCATION BOARD:

1. To administer the Common Market in the region.
2. To assist the states and institutions in developing a list of programs to be offered through the Common Market.
3. To call meetings of the state coordinators.
4. To distribute information describing the Common Market and listing regional programs.
5. To disseminate information on the operation of the Common Market.

III. PROCEDURES

1. Selection of Common Market programs. The state coordinators will report to SREB programs the institutions in their state are willing to include in the Common Market. Each state coordinator will indicate from the offered programs those not offered in his state and to be made available to the residents of his state through the Common Market.
2. Admission procedures. To enroll in a Common Market program, a student will first complete the normal admission procedure of the institution offering the desired program. If accepted by the institution to enroll in the program, he will apply to the state coordinator in

his home state, prior to enrollment, for certification of residency. If certified, the student will submit his notice of certification to the institution admitting him. Each institution will notify the state coordinator of students participating in its Common Market programs. The resulting information will be sent to SREB.

IV. MAGNITUDE

Initially, the Common Market will be limited to programs at the graduate level. A review of this limitation will be made at the end of two years.

V. DURATION

This agreement is to be effective for three years. At the end of the second year an evaluation, under the guidance of the SREB staff, will be made on the operations of the Common Market to determine whether and under what circumstances the parties might renew the agreement.

A party may rescind through written notice to SREB its commitment to this agreement with the understanding that students from participating states will be given a reasonable period of time to complete their work in Common Market programs at in-state tuition. The party must submit its notice at least one year in advance of the time it desires to discontinue its commitment to this agreement.

VI. RATIFICATION

This instrument shall be considered in effect upon the execution of the memorandum by five states through the signing of the signatories who have authority to commit the states and at least one public institution in each state to the provisions herein.

Attached to this memorandum is an endorsement page which, when signed by an appropriate executive officer of a state or institution and returned to the President of SREB will constitute acceptance of the terms of this agreement.

ENDORSEMENT OF MEMORANDUM OF

AGREEMENT FOR AN ACADEMIC COMMON MARKET

FOR _____
State or Institution

BY _____
Signature of proper official

Title and Address _____

_____

_____

_____

DATE _____

Return endorsement page to:
Dr. Winfred L. Godwin, President
Southern Regional Education Board
130 Sixth Street, N. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30313